

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S6859–S6907*

**Measures Introduced:** Eight bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2063–2070, and S. Res. 261–266. **Pages S6893–94**

**Measures Reported:**

H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114–146) **Page S6892**

**Measures Passed:**

**Boko Haram:** Senate passed S. 1632, to require a regional strategy to address the threat posed by Boko Haram, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S6905–06**

McConnell (for Lankford/Inhofe) Amendment No. 2677, to require that the Director of National Intelligence assess the capability of the United States Government to help implement the 5-year strategy to counter the regional threat of Boko Haram. **Page S6905**

**Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act:** Senate passed S. 986, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico. **Page S6906**

**Breast Cancer Research Stamp:** Senate passed S. 1170, to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research. **Pages S6906–07**

**National Retirement Security Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 263, supporting the goals and ideals of National Retirement Security Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles, increasing personal financial literacy, and engaging the people of the United States on the keys to success in achieving and maintaining retirement security throughout their lifetimes. **Page S6907**

**National Falls Prevention Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 264, designating September 23, 2015, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day” to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults. **Page S6907**

**Honoring Congressman Louis Stokes:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 265, honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Congressman Louis Stokes. **Page S6907**

**Measures Considered:**

**Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 36, to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children. **Pages S6860–64, S6868**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 268), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S6864**

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn. **Page S6868**

**Department of Defense Appropriations Act:** By 54 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 269), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate upon reconsideration rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 2685, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. **Page S6864**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

The motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on June 18, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S6864**

The motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on June 18, 2015, was agreed to. **Page S6864**

**Hire More Heroes Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of H.J. Res. 61, amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt employees

with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of determining the employers to which the employer mandate applies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S6868–89**

Rejected:

McConnell motion to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 2660, to prohibit the President from waiving, suspending, reducing, providing relief from, or otherwise limiting the application of sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran. (Senate tabled the motion.) **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2658 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2640), to change the enactment date. (Senate tabled the amendment.) **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2640, of a perfecting nature. (Senate tabled the amendment.) **Page S6868**

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) Amendment No. 2669, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2670 (to Amendment No. 2669), to change the enactment date. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2671 (to Amendment No. 2670), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2672 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2669), to change the enactment date. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2673 (to Amendment No. 2672), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6868**

McConnell motion to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 2674, to change the enactment date. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2675 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2674), of a perfecting nature. **Pages S6868–69**

McConnell Amendment No. 2676 (to Amendment No. 2675), of a perfecting nature. **Page S6869**

A motion was entered to close further debate on McConnell (for Cochran) Amendment No. 2669 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Tuesday, September 22, 2015, a vote on cloture will occur at 2 p.m., on Thursday, September 24, 2015. **Page S6869**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

McConnell Amendment No. 2661 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2660), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell motion to commit the joint resolution to the Committee on Foreign Relations, with instructions, McConnell Amendment No. 2660 (listed above) was tabled. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2662 (to Amendment No. 2661), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 2661 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 2660) (listed above) fell. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2659 (to Amendment No. 2658), of a perfecting nature, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 2658 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 2640) (listed above) was tabled. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2656 (to Amendment No. 2640), to prohibit the President from waiving, suspending, reducing, providing relief from, or otherwise limiting the application of sanctions pursuant to an agreement related to the nuclear program of Iran, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 2640 (listed above) was tabled. **Page S6868**

McConnell Amendment No. 2657 (to Amendment No. 2656), to change the enactment date, fell when McConnell Amendment No. 2656 (to Amendment No. 2640) (listed above) fell. **Page S6868**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 1 p.m., on Thursday, September 24, 2015, Senate resume consideration of the joint resolution, with the time until 2 p.m., equally divided between the two Leaders, or their designees; that notwithstanding rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture on McConnell (for Cochran) Amendment No. 2669, ripen at 2 p.m., on Thursday, September 24, 2015; and that the filing deadline for all first-degree and second-degree amendments to McConnell (for Cochran) Amendment No. 2669, be at 1:30 p.m. **Page S6907**

**Escort Committee—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Holiness Pope Francis, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting at 10 a.m., on Thursday, September 24, 2015. **Page S6907**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Kathryn K. Matthew, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a term of four years. **Page S6889**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:**

**Pages S6859, S6892**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Pages S6892–93**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6894–95

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6895–S6901

Additional Statements: Page S6892

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6901–04

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6904–05

Privileges of the Floor: Page S6905

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—269) Pages S6864, S6867–68

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:29 p.m., until 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2015. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6907.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States Middle East policy, after receiving testimony from General David H. Petraeus, USA (Ret.), former Director, Central Intelligence Agency, Commander, International Security Assistance Force/Commander, United States Forces Afghanistan, Commander, United States Central Command, Commander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Susan Coppedge Amato, of Georgia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large, Department of State, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Isakson, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

### IMPROVING VA ACCOUNTABILITY

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving VA accountability, focusing on examining first-hand accounts of Department of Veterans Affairs whistleblowers, after receiving testimony from Carolyn Lerner, Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel; Linda A. Halliday, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Carolyn Clancy, Chief Medical Officer, Veterans Health Administration, and Michael Culpepper, Acting Director, Office of Accountability Review, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Brandon W. Coleman Sr., Phoenix Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Phoenix, Arizona; Joseph Colon, VA Caribbean Healthcare System, San Juan, Puerto Rico; Christopher Shea Wilkes, VA Truth Tellers, Shreveport, Louisiana; and Sean Kirkpatrick, Chicago, Illinois.

### HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY CONSOLIDATION

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine consolidation in the health insurance industry and its impact on consumers, including S. 2019, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, after receiving testimony from Mark T. Bertolini, Aetna, Inc., Hartford, Connecticut; Joseph Swedish, Anthem, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana; Paul B. Ginsburg, University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy Schaeffer Center for Health and Policy Economics, Rick Pollack, American Hospital Association, and George Slover, Consumers Union, all of Washington, D.C.; and Leemore S. Dafny, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, Illinois.

### INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.